

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action mailed August 21, 2003 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-37 have been rejected

In paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Debes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,970,223).

Applicants respectfully traverse the section 102(e) rejection of claims 1-37. To establish a *prima facie* case for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, all the claim limitations must be taught, disclosed or suggested by the cited reference. In this instance, the requirements are not present and a *prima facie* rejection fails under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because the Office Action does not cite a reference that teaches, discloses or suggests all the claim limitations of Applicants' application.

Applicants' invention, as recited in claim 1, requires at least "assigning priority values to data channels that receive print jobs; associating the priority value assigned to the data channel with the print jobs received at its respective data channel; and printing the print jobs in an order corresponding to their associated priority values."

Debes discloses a system for performing interruptions for print jobs based on prioritized jobs in a queue. Debes does not even suggest prioritizing data channels. Moreover, Debes fails to teach, disclose or suggest assigning priority values to data channels that receive print jobs. Rather, Debes discloses merely interrupting a print job in a print queue with a first interrupt job. Debes assigns a print job in the print queue as the first interrupt job based on FIFO or on the type of service, e.g., fax, print, etc. Thus, Debes fails to suggest, disclose or even suggest assigning priority values to data channels that receive print jobs.

Further, Debes fails to teach, disclose or suggest associating the priority value assigned to the data channel with the print jobs received at its respective data channel. Debes does not even mention the prioritizing of data channels. Therefore, Debes does not suggest associating the priority value assigned to the data channel with the print jobs received at its respective data channel.

Still further, Debes fails to teach, disclose or suggest print the print jobs in an order corresponding to priority values assigned to data channels receiving the print jobs. Rather, Debes focuses on a job interrupt system. In Debes, the job interrupt system uses job priority to determine interruptability. (See Col. 16, lines 41-50) And "a job's priority is based on the

service that created the job.” (See Col. 16, lines 32-33) Debes does not teach, disclose or suggest “assigning priority values to data channels that receive print jobs.” In fact, Debes does not mention print jobs being received over different data channels.

Independent claims 15, 16, 26, 29, 35 and 36 include similar limitations, and therefore are distinguishable over Debes for the same reasons. Because Debes fails to teach, disclose or suggest all of the elements of Applicants’ invention, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims are patentable over Debes.

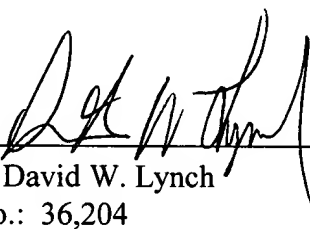
Dependent claims 2-14, 16-25, 27-28, 30-34 and 37 are also patentable over the references because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims. Further, dependent claims 2-14, 16-25, 27-28, 30-34 and 37 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-14, 16-25, 27-28, 30-34 and 37 are patentable over the cited references.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicants, David W. Lynch, at 651-686-6633 Ext. 116.

Respectfully submitted,

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